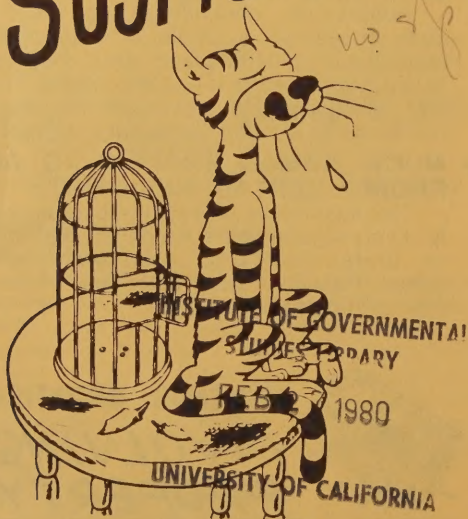


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# WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS?



**C** **rime**  
**R** **revention**  
**C** **ommittee**

**OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**  
A citizens-law enforcement partnership

# THIS FOLDER GIVES YOU EXAMPLES OF **WHEN AND WHY** YOU SHOULD CALL YOUR POLICE OR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## INFORMATION MOST OFTEN NEEDED BY POLICE

- WHAT HAPPENED?
- WHEN?
- WHERE?
- IS ANYONE INJURED?
- VEHICLE LICENSE NUMBER
- VEHICLE DESCRIPTION
- DIRECTION OF FLIGHT
- DESCRIPTION OF PERSONS

**CALL THE POLICE  
ABOUT ALL  
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**

Don't worry about "bothering" them — this is what they are for. Don't worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. Better to think what could happen if you don't act.

## THE CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

is a first time countywide alliance of citizens and police whose goals are:

- to reduce burglary,
- to improve community knowledge about crime and its capability for dealing with crime, and
- to promote joint police-citizen planning of crime prevention programs that meet the true needs of the community.

Established under the auspices of the Criminal Justice Agency and the Police Chiefs Association.

For information call  
798-2572



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### • CERTAIN MOVING VEHICLES

Especially if slow moving and without lights, or if the course followed appears aimless or repetitive. This is suspicious in any location, but particularly in areas of schools, parks or playgrounds. *Possible significance:* Possible "casing" for places to rob or burglarize. Possible drug pusher. Possible sex offender.

### • CERTAIN PARKED, OCCUPIED VEHICLES

May contain one or more persons, especially significant if observed at an unusual hour. *Possible significance:* Possible lookout for a burglary or robbery in progress. True, even if occupants appear to be lovers.

### • VEHICLES BEING LOADED WITH VALUABLES

Suspicious if parked in front of a closed business or untended residence, even if the vehicle is legitimate-looking commercial unit — possibly even bearing a sign identifying it as a repair vehicle, moving van, etc. *Possible significance:* Possible burglary or other theft in progress.

### • ABANDONED VEHICLE

Possible stolen car.

### • VEHICLE CONTAINING WEAPONS

Suspicious under almost any circumstances. *Possible significance:* Owner may engage in criminal activity.

### • OTHER UNUSUAL ACTIVITY INVOLVING VEHICLES

Persons attempting forcibly to enter a locked vehicle, especially at night or in a parking lot. *Possible significance:* Possible burglary, theft, or malicious mischief in progress.

Persons detaching mechanical parts or accessories from a vehicle, especially at

night in the street or a parking lot. *Possible significance:* Possible theft or malicious mischief in progress.

Apparent business transactions conducted from a vehicle, especially if around schools or parks, and if juveniles are involved. *Possible significance:* Possible drug sales or business license violation.

Persons being forced into vehicles, especially if juveniles or females. *Possible significance:* Possible kidnapping.

Objects thrown from a vehicle, especially while traveling at high speed. *Possible significance:* Possible disposal of contraband. Possible garbage dumping.



### • GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR IN RESIDENTIAL AREA

Especially suspicious if, after a few houses are visited, one or more of the subjects goes into a back or side yard. More suspicious if another remains in the front when this occurs. *Possible significance:* Possible "casing" for a house to burglarize. Possible burglary in progress. Possible soliciting violation. Possible trespass.

### • WAITING IN FRONT OF A HOUSE OR BUSINESS

Particularly suspicious if owners are absent, or — if it's a business — the establishment is closed. *Possible significance:* Possible lookout for a burglary in progress inside.

### • FORCING ENTRANCE TO OR TAMPERING WITH A RESIDENCE, VEHICLE, ETC.

Suspicious under almost any circumstances. *Possible significance:* Possible burglary, theft, malicious mischief, or trespass in progress.

**If it's suspicious, call the police! You**



- **NON-RESIDENT GOING INTO BACK OR SIDE YARD OF HOUSE**

Suspicious under almost any circumstances. Possible burglary or trespass in progress.

- **PERSON RUNNING**

Especially if something of value is being carried. *Possible significance:* Possibly fleeing the scene of a crime.

- **EXHIBITING UNUSUAL MENTAL OR PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS**

*Possible significance:* Possibly injured, under the influence of drugs, or otherwise needing medical or psychiatric assistance.

- **CARRYING PROPERTY**

Suspicious, depending upon the circumstances. For example, if at an unusual hour or in an unusual place, and if the property is not wrapped as if just purchased. *Possible significance:* Subject possibly leaving the scene of a robbery, burglary, or theft.

- **MUCH HUMAN TRAFFIC TO AND FROM A CERTAIN RESIDENCE**

Not suspicious unless it occurs on a daily or very regular basis, especially during late or unusual hours. *Possible significance:* Possible vice activities. Possible "fence" operation.



## SUSPICIOUS SITUATIONS INVOLVING PROPERTY

- **PROPERTY IN HOMES, PRIVATE GARAGES, STORAGE AREAS, ETC.**

Suspicious if accumulations are large or otherwise unusual (such as several TV sets in a garage) and if the items are in good condition, but are not in use. *Possible significance:* Possible stolen property.

- **PROPERTY IN VEHICLES**

Not suspicious unless the property is not normally found in vehicles — especially if

observed at unusual hours or if TV sets, stereos, unmounted tape decks, or auto parts are involved. *Possible significance:* Possible stolen property.

- **PROPERTY CARRIED BY PERSONS ON FOOT**

Normally not suspicious unless at an unusual hour or in an unusual place. Especially questionable if the person is running. May be significant if the property is not wrapped as if just purchased. *Possible significance:* Possible stolen property.

- **PROPERTY BEING REMOVED FROM OR BEING PLACED INTO VEHICLES OR BUILDINGS**

Not suspicious unless unusual hours or places are involved. For instance, from closed business or residences whose owners are known to be absent. *Possible significance:* Possible burglary or theft in progress.



- **CONTINUOUS "REPAIR" OPERATIONS AT A NON-BUSINESS LOCATION**

*Possible significance:* Possibly stolen property being stripped, repainted, or otherwise altered. Possible business license or zoning violation.

- **OPEN OR BROKEN DOORS OR WINDOWS**

At closed business or residence whose owners are temporarily absent. *Possible significance:* Possible burglary in progress or scene of completed burglary.

- **UNUSUAL NOISES, ETC.**

Gunshots, screaming, sounds of combat, abnormally barking dogs — anything suggestive of foul play, danger, illegal activity. *Call the police or sheriff immediately!*

**may save a life or stop a criminal act!**

# Emergency Phone Numbers

## POLICE DEPARTMENTS

ANTIOCH.....	757-2222
BRENTWOOD.....	634-3558
CLAYTON.....	229-1212
CONCORD.....	671-3333
EL CERRITO.....	237-3233
HERCULES.....	758-3043
KENSINGTON.....	526-4141
MARTINEZ.....	228-4141
PINOLE.....	758-3043
PITTSBURG.....	432-6464
PLEASANT HILL.....	934-7804
RICHMOND.....	233-1214
SAN PABLO.....	234-9231
WALNUT CREEK.....	935-6400

## SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT AREAS (TOLL FREE NUMBERS)

ALAMO.....	935-2474
ANTIOCH.....	757-7060
CONCORD.....	228-8280
DANVILLE.....	935-2474
EAST COUNTY.....	757-7060
EL SOBRANTE.....	235-7060
LAFAYETTE.....	254-2474
MARSH CREEK.....	228-8280
MARTINEZ.....	228-8280
MORAGA.....	254-2474
ORINDA.....	254-2474
PINOLE.....	235-7060
PITTSBURG.....	458-3406
PLEASANT HILL.....	228-8280
RICHMOND.....	235-7060
SAN RAMON.....	935-2474
WALNUT CREEK.....	228-8280

**Underline YOUR Emergency Number**  
so you can read it fast when you need it

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